

Remarks

This is in response to the Office Action dated October 4, 2005 in which pending claims 22-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Heo et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,987,417) and Kondo et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,618,396).

In the inventions of amended claims 22, 24, and 26, the multiple channels are separated into a first channel group and a second channel group. The audio data additionally has information about the sampling frequency for the first channel group and information about the sampling frequency for the second channel group. Not only the information about the assignment of the multiple channels but also the information about the sampling frequency for the first channel group and the information about the sampling frequency for the second channel group are placed in the prescribed area in the real-data recording area except the CIP (Common Isochronous Packet) header in the data field.

Accordingly, the inventions of amended claims 22, 24, and 26 have the following advantage. The sampling frequency can be set channel-group by channel-group. For example, the sampling frequency for the first channel group is set to a high value to attain a high audio quality while the sampling frequency for the second channel group is set to a low value to enable a recorder to continuously implement the recording for a long time.

The separation of the multiple channels into the first channel group and the second channel group, the information about the sampling frequency for the first channel group and the information about the sampling frequency for the second channel group, and the placement of the information about the sampling frequency for the first channel group and the information about the sampling frequency for the second channel group in the prescribed area in the real-data recording area except the CIP (Common Isochronous Packet) header in the data field are supported by Figs. 18 and 19 of the present application, and pages 32-42 of the specification of the present application (Fourth Embodiment).

At the very least, Heo et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,987,417) and Kondo et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,618,396) do not teach or suggest the following as set forth in amended claims 22, 24, and 26:

(1) the separation of the multiple channels into a first channel group and a second channel group;

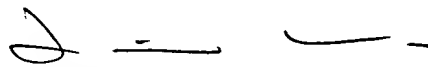
(2) the information about the sampling frequency for the first channel group and the information about the sampling frequency for the second channel group; and

(3) the placement of the information about the sampling frequency for the first channel group and the information about the sampling frequency for the second channel group in the prescribed area in the real-data recording area except the CIP (Common Isochronous Packet) header in the data field.

The devices of Heo et al and Kondo et al simply can not provide the above-indicated advantage (that is, the group-by-group setting of the sampling frequency) of the inventions of amended claims 22, 24, and 26.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended claims 22, 24, and 26 each are patentable over Heo et al and Kondo et al. The examiner is therefore respectfully requested to reconsider the application and pass the case to issue at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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